

Homemade Fishing Weights Can Be Hazardous to Your Health



Can I harm myself and my family by making fishing weights or sinkers at home?

Yes. Children and adults can develop serious health problems when lead dust or fume is spread throughout your home.

The cutting, grinding, or melting of lead at home is an unsafe practice. When you melt lead it creates airborne particles (fumes), or when you cut or grind lead, it can generate dust that can easily spread throughout an area. Lead dust can stick to floors, walls, furniture, clothing, and children's toys. As a result, children and adults can become sick by breathing or ingesting lead particles.

Can lead damage my body?

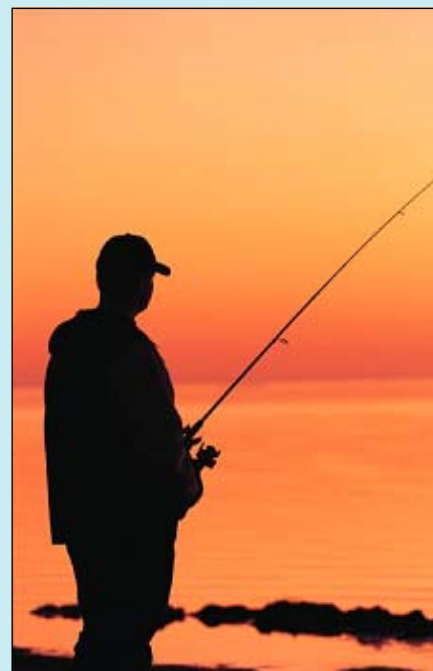
Yes. Health problems may include:



- ✓ Nervous system problems
- ✓ Reproductive problems
- ✓ Kidney problems

Children are even more at risk. Exposure to lead may cause:

- ✓ Hearing and learning disabilities
- ✓ Slowed growth
- ✓ Headaches



Prevent lead poisoning in children and adults



If you think that you or your child have been exposed to lead or have lead poisoning, see your doctor immediately.



Purchase finished commercial fishing weights instead of making homemade fishing weights.

For more information, please call the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services:

Occupational Health Service

Phone: (609) 984-1863

Internet: www.nj.gov/health/eoh/survweb

Maternal, Child, and Community Health Services

Phone: 1-800-328-3838

Internet: www.nj.gov/health/fhs/chshome.htm

Consumer and Environmental Health Services

Phone: (609) 588-3120

Internet: www.nj.gov/health/eoh/leadasb/asbedmat.htm



Jon S. Corzine
Governor

Occupational Health Service
Occupational Health Surveillance Program



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Commissioner